FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 MARCH 1987

Chadian Conflict

Faya Largeau, reportedly the last Libyan stronghold in Chad, was taken by government troops 27 March, according to a military communique carried by Ndjamena radio. The GUNT's clandestine Bardai radio acknowledged that its forces had made an "orderly tactical withdrawal" from the town. Despite losing Faya, the Libyans continued bombing the oasis and Ouadi Doum on 29 March, Ndjamena radio reported. Elsewhere, 88 fleeing Libyan soldiers were killed and 14 taken prisoner northeast of Zouar in the Tibesti mountains on 28 March, according to AFP.

Sudan's interior minister called on Libyan forces present on Sudanese territory to leave immediately, SUNA reported. The entry of Libyan forces into its territory brought Sudan's mediation efforts in Chad to a "dead end" and destabilized the situation on the borders with Libya and Chad, he said. In a related development, police in Western Sudan captured weapons belonging to GUNT, SUNA reported citing a Sudanese paper. "Large numbers" of Libyan troops are still stationed in the country, according to the paper.

However, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi told the Council of Ministers that the issue of Libyan troops on Sudan's western borders has been resolved after recent contacts with the Libyan leadership and is "now considered closed," SUNA reported.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asserted in a 28 March speech carried by Tripoli television that there have been no Libyan forces in Chad since 1983. Claims that Libya is trying to colonize Chad and the "artificial clamor by imperialist circles" that "hordes" of Libyan troops are entering Sudanese territory aim to "distort the liberationary role" of Libya, he maintained. If France does not leave Chad, the Libyan leader asserted "there will be a long and bitter confrontation" because Libya will side with the Chadian liberation forces. He said Libya has not yet decided to enter Chad but could "enlist half a million Libyans and march on Chad and what lies beyond" if it so desired.

In a recent U.S. television interview cited by JANA, Al-Qadhdhafi warned the United States that continued aggression against Libya would lead to "serious consequences" in the regional balance of power. "Libya might actually proclaim itself a communist country and join the Warsaw Pact," he said, adding that Soviet missiles would then be deployed along the Mediterranean.

Regarding the Aegean dispute between Greece and Turkey, Al-Qadhdhafi cabled the leaders of both countries and offered to "do whatever will help achieve stability" and avoid military confrontation, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported.

The Libyan leader also sent messages to a number of Arab leaders over the weekend, according to press reports cited by the Bahraini news agency WAKH. The messages call for convening an Arab summit, confirm the Libyan leader's participation in it, and propose ways to end Arab differences, WAKH noted.

Egypt

Libyan Defectors — A Libyan military helicopter landed at an airport in western Egypt on 29 March, MENA reported, noting that the three crew members requested political asylum.

Arms to Sudan — Egypt is airlifting "urgent" supplies of arms and ammunition to Sudan, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed. The deliveries are in connection with the latest developments in Chad, the radio added

Relations With Syria — "It is in the interests of both Egypt and Syria to narrow their differences," Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary, asserted in an interview with a Lebanese magazine cited by MENA. Al-Baz told the magazine that improved ties would lead to detente, "in the Gulf or elsewhere."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft made two raids on oil installations near an intersection of pipelines carrying oil to Ganaveh and Khark Island 29 March, according to an Iraqi military communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio. The planes also attacked Emam Hasan oilfield and hit a "large gunboat" off the Iranian coast. An Iranian military statement cited by IRNA reported two Iraqi planes were downed 29 March. One was shot down during an attempted raid on an Iranian island, and another was hit in the southern Gulf region. A missile hit an oil tanker off the UAE coast and set it ablaze on 28 March, AFP reported, pointing out the attack took place "in an area where missile attacks are usually attributed to Iran."

Iran has used its missiles along the Hormuz Strait to attack ships in the Gulf "several times," Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stated in a press interview carried by Voice of the Masses radio. 'Aziz predicted that Iran will not use the missiles, which have been in place "for several months," to close the strait, as this would be "suicidal" for Iran because it would "suffocate."

Israel

Sela' Resignation — Colonel Avi'em Sela' did what was necessary in resigning his post as commander of the Tel Nof air base, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. Sela' had asked to be relieved of the post in a letter to the Air Force commander broadcast by Jerusalem television 29 March, noting that his decision stemmed from the deterioration in Israeli-U.S. relations and from his concern for

the future of relations with the United States and with U.S. Jewry. Sela' said he had taken this "personal and uninfluenced independent decision" despite being "flooded" with appeals from inside and outside the air force to continue in his post. Sela's request was approved by the defense minister and chief of staff, the television noted.

Herut Convention — Prime Minister Shamir gained a "resounding victory" over his chief rival, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, in the elections at the Herut Convention 29-30 March, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Shamir was unanimously reelected leader while Levi only narrowly retained the deputy leadership, the radio said, noting that Levi made a "bitter" closing speech in which he accused supporters of Shamir, Moshe Arens, and Ari'el Sharon of ganging up against him. Political resolutions adopted at the convention include a motion that defines an international conference as a "foolish and destructive notion that should be firmly opposed," the radio noted.

Lebanon

Security Situation — Five people were killed by a car bomb in West Beirut 28 March, Beirut radio reported, noting that the explosion occurred near the Syrian military observers' headquarters. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said it was informed by an anonymous caller that the "Long Arm" organization was responsible for the attack, which was aimed at assassinating "butcher" Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon. Although Voice of Lebanon radio announced that six Syrian soldiers were ambushed and killed in northern Lebanon the same day, a Syrian military source cited by the clandestine Voice of the People denied this "completely unfounded" report.

In southern Lebanon, three "terrorists" were killed and five IDF soldiers were wounded in a 29 March clash near villages that are known to be centers for Hizballah and other Shi'ite groups, according to Jerusalem radio.

Hostages — The Syrians are preparing a "big show" for the release of U.S. hostages kidnapped 24 January, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat asserted in an AFP interview. Another PLO official told the FRG's *Der Spiegel* that Hizballah is holding two West German hostages, DPA noted. However, Hizballah denied any connection with the hostages issue in a statement broadcast by Voice of National Resistance radio. In East Beirut, Lebanese Forces commander Samir Ja'ja' stressed that his organization is not holding any Iranian hostages, Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Camps War — PLO leader 'Arafat told AFP that 3 women were killed and 10 wounded when the Amal Movement opened fire at Palestinian demonstrators demanding food 29 March. Meanwhile, the PNSF urged Syria to compel Amal to lift its siege of Palestinian camps, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported.

Tunisia-Iran

The discovery of a plot to overthrow the government and replace it with a "fundamentalist regime based on the Shari'ah" led to the decision to break ties with Iran, Tunis radio revealed reporting on a 27 March press conference at the Information Ministry. Officials told reporters Khomeyniite Islamic groups in Tunisia linked to the Iranian Revolution used the university and mosques to promote "anarchy" and formed "Iranian-style revolutionary cells" to "pounce on the regime to wear it down and pave the way for its collapse." Detailing the Iranian Embassy's propaganda activities, officials said they aimed to exploit an atmosphere allegedly "ripe for a revolution Khomeyni-style." Collusion between the Iran and the Khomeyniite movement also involved Tunisian groups abroad, the officials added, citing as an example a terrorist recently arrested in Paris who was trained and funded by the Iranian Embassy.

According to unofficial sources cited by AFP, Tunisian police arrested "several dozen" fundamentalists belonging to the "Islamic Tendency Movement" who were reportedly involved, including the group's president, Rachid Ghannouchi.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni denounced U.S. threats of military intervention in the Persian Gulf in a recorded speech carried by Tehran radio on 28 March. Stressing that the world has changed, Khomeyni said it is no longer possible today "to disrupt matters by dictatorial or propaganda means," and if U.S. officials do not understand this, then they "rank among the top idiots."

Saudi Arabia

In a statement to SPA, a "responsible" Saudi source denied reports that clashes took place on the border with the YAR 24 March, and said they were nothing more than "routine border search operations." The claims are no more than "wishful thinking" by those tho "are not comfortable" with the Saudi-YAR "model of cooperation," he added. The source also branded allegations of Riyadh's ambitions on Yemeni oil as "pure lies and fabrications." Regarding claims that Riyadh offered the Syrian president 2 billion dollars to finance the dispatch of Syrian troops into Lebanon and to assure the president's attendance at the Kuwait ICO summit, a Saudi source told SPA such reports "aim to create chaos and confusion" and are "mere fabrications and fantasies."

DRA

The Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge on 28 March and made a "strong protest" against airspace violations in the border areas, Kabul radio reported, citing a 25 March incident involving two F-4 Phantom aircraft. On the other hand, Pakistan has "strongly protested" Kabul's bombing of Kurram Agency and north Waziristan on 26 March, Karachi radio announced.

Western Sahara

A Saharan communique claimed 200 Moroccans and a "great amount of artillery" were "destroyed" by antitank and antipersonnel mines on 26 March, Algiers radio reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 060 *30 March 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Iranian Envoy Summoned Over 'Aggression' ..... C 1
Defense Minister Addresses Ideological Seminar ..... C 1
Ministers Return From USSR Visit 27 Mar ..... C 1
Mujahidin Kill 300 Soviet-Kabul Troops in Helmand *[Karachi]* ..... C 1
Kill 13 Troops in Qandahar, Farah *[Karachi]* ..... C 1
Stage Series of Attacks in Herat *[IRNA]* ..... C 1

INDIA

Gandhi Commissions Thermal Power Station Unit ..... E 1
AFP Cites President's Remarks Published in Bombay ..... E 1
Prime Minister Calls on President 28 Mar ..... E 1
Tiwari Leaves for Czechoslovakia, Poland 29 Mar ..... E 1
Update on Leadership in Kerala, Jammu, W. Bengal ..... E 1
Law Minister Resigns Following Election Losses ..... E 2
AFP Says Border Security Forces To Be Increased ..... E 2
Border Security Force Kills 7 Pakistani Intruders ..... E 2

PAKISTAN

Federal Cabinet Expanded; Portfolios Reshuffled ..... F 1
Karachi Reports Top Military Appointments ..... F 1
Protest Lodged With UN Over Afghan Bombings ..... F 1
AFP Reports Afghan Reconnaissance Plane Downed ..... F 2
Sri Lankan Prime Minister Concludes Visit ..... F 2
Terms Talks 'Encouraging' ..... F 2
Departs Karachi 29 Mar ..... F 2
Envoy to India, Minister Discuss Troop Withdrawal ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

India Resumes Efforts To Solve Ethnic Problem ..... G 1
Jayewardene Expected To Meet Gandhi *[AFP]* ..... G 1
Delhi Reports Fierce Fighting Erupts in Jaffna ..... G 1
AFP Reports Further ..... G 1

IRAN

Khomeyni Issues Address on Prophet's Anniversary ..... I 1
Montazeri Views Islamic Rulers, Need for Unity ..... I 3

Majlis Speaker Outlines Combatants' Victories ..... I 3
Tunisian Severance of Ties 'Blessing in Disguise' ..... I 4
Navy To Confront 'Mischievous Movement' in Gulf ..... I 4
French 'Poisonous Propaganda' Protested ..... I 5
Iraqi Claims of Basra Shelling 'Baseless' ..... I 5
AFP Reports Oil Tanker Hit Persian Gulf ..... I 5
Communique No 2,789 Reports 2 Ships Intercepted ..... I 5
No 2,790 Reports Iraqi Plane Downed ..... I 6

Iranian Envoy Summoned Over 'Aggression'

LD281803 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] The charge d'affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul was summoned at 1600 today to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the following protest note was handed to him.

Despite protests made for the cessation of aggression by the regular Iranian forces in regions along the common borders of the two countries, it has still been noticed that the trend of aggression on the sacrosanct DRA national sovereignty by the regular Iranian forces has not been stopped. For example, 25 March 1987 from 0958 to 1003 two DF-4 Phantom aircraft of the military force of Iran flew a curve in a region 40 km north-east of Robat-e Ja'li inside the territory of Afghanistan.

In expressing a strong protest against these aggressive actions that have taken place contrary to the laws and credible international norms, and against the observance of the maintenance of peace in the border regions, the DRA once again points out that the continuation of such aggression will never be in the interests of the people of the two neighboring countries of Afghanistan and Iran, and seriously damages the process of improving relations between the two sides, one of the urgent wishes of the people and Government of the DRA.

Defense Minister Addresses Ideological Seminar

LD271125 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] This morning Comrade Brigadier General Mohammad Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA defense minister, took part in the work of the seminar of the political and ideological workers of the units and companies of the Kabul garrison.

According to a BAKHTAR report, Comrade Mohammad Rafi spoke at today's seminar and drew the attention of those taking part to their duties and responsibilities for enhancing combat readiness, consolidation of discipline, and taking an active part in the implementation of the national reconciliation policy. He also outlined the duties of the commanders and political organs for raising the morale of units' personnel still further; enhancing the professional knowledge and war expertise of the men, NCO's, and officers; making effective use of equipment and weapons; and attending to personnel living conditions.

The report adds the work of the seminar will continue tomorrow.

Ministers Return From USSR Visit 27 Mar

LD271840 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Nazar Mohammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Mohammad Aziz, deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and chief of the DRA State Planning Committee; and Finance Minister Mohammad Kabir, who paid a working visit to the USSR, returned home today.

Mujahidin Kill 300 Soviet-Kabul Troops in Helmand

BK300625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] According to reports, nearly 300 Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed in fierce fighting in Afghanistan's south-western province of Helmand early this month. The reports say that the mujahidin destroyed 45 tanks and trucks in the fighting and destroyed an aircraft during a rocket attack on the provincial airport. Soviet-Kabul forces have been withdrawn to the provincial capital following mujahidin attacks on a supply convoy.

Kill 13 Troops in Qandahar, Farah

BK290626 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say 13 Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed in various mujahidin operations in Qandahar and Farah Provinces during the 2d and 3d weeks of this month. Another report says more than a hundred Kabul soldiers defected to the mujahidin in Samangan Province, bordering the Soviet Union.

Stage Series of Attacks in Herat

LD261625 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., March 26, IRNA — Afghan Muslim revolutionaries demolished 13 tanks and military vehicles of the joint Soviet-Afghan forces in Herat Province in a series of attacks during the past two weeks.

Some 150 soldiers and officers of the joint forces were killed or wounded and 151 others taken captive during the operations carried out in 11 regions of Herat Province.

Gandhi Commissions Thermal Power Station Unit

BK271610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today commissioned and dedicated to the nation the 210-megawatt second unit of the thermal power station at Neyveli. The station has three units of which one was commissioned last year. With today's commissioning of the second unit, the Neyveli Lignite Corporation's power generation capacity has risen to 1,020 megawatts [as heard]. The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, presided over the function.

Later, addressing a public meering in Neyveli, the prime minister called for an end to the violence in Sri Lanka, particularly the killing of civilians. He said there can be no military solution to the ethnic problem in the island republic. Referring to religious fundamentalism, the prime minister said the country should beware of the danger of mixing religion with politics. He congratulated the Punjab chief minister, Mr Barnala, for confronting religious fundamentalism.

AFP Cites President's Remarks Published in Bombay

BK261404 Hong Kong AFP in English 1351 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] New Delhi, March 26 (AFP) — President Zail Singh has warned that the future of Indian democracy is "cloudy" and accused the country's rulers of running the world's second most populous nation like an "elite school."

"The future of Indian democracy is not dark, but it's getting decidedly cloudy," the 71-year-old veteran politician now at loggerheads with Premier Rajiv Gandhi told *Illustrated Weekly of India*, published in Bombay Thursday. The president did not mention Mr Gandhi by name, but the magazine implied very strongly that the premier was repeatedly being referred to.

Mr Singh said: "Politics is not an elite school, where one can fool around with one's friends.... It is not a picnic or a holidy. It's serious business, which demands highest... standards of public behaviour." Mr Gandhi, 43, has come in for widespread criticism for enjoying picnics with friends and film stars at tourist resorts.

In remarks which could be directed only against the Gandhi family, the president said: "This country does not belong to any party or any particular family, however much they may have contributed to its political history. India belongs to the common man." Three of India's six prime ministers have belonged to one family: Jawaharlal Nehru, the first premier who ruled from 1947 to 1964, his daughter Indira Gandhi who ruled for 16 years (1966-77 and 1980-84) and her son Rajiv Gandhi, who won elections in late 1984.

Mr Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, which this week was routed by communists in two of three state elections, has not held inner-party elections for 14 years. "There is no democracy within the political parties that are in the forefront today... How do you expect them to nurture democracy in this land?" Mr Singh, a congress stalwart, said.

But he made no reference to a letter in which he alleged that the prime minister had lied to parliament about their official relationship — an allegation which has raised a major constitutional controversy. *The Indian Express* published the secret letter on March 13, in which Mr Singh said Mr Gandhi was violating the Constitution by keeping the president in the dark about major developments.

The president, who had been known to be at odds with the prime minister over several issues, said Mrs Gandhi never got angry at anyone within her own party — "as some people do today" — and demanded protection for "institutions... protocol...values that are inherent in our political system." Soon after becoming premier, Mr Gandhi reportedly began departing from protocol by not briefing Mr Singh after tours abroad — one of the charges brought in the president's two-page confidential letter.

Indian presidents have never given interviews during their period in office and the magazine stressed that the article was based on a "series of conversations" and was not an interview.

Prime Minister Calls on President 28 Mar

BK280848 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] this afternoon. The meeting started at 1215. The two leaders were together when reports last came in. Earlier today, Mr Kamlapati Tripathi met Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Tiwari Leaves for Czechoslovakia, Poland 29 Mar

BK290915 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, left New Delhi this morning on an 8-day visit to Czechoslovakia and Poland. During his stay in the two East European countries Mr Tiwari will have discussions with the Czech and Polish leaders.

Update on Leadership in Kerala, Jammu, W. Bengal

BK261424 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpts] In the southern state of Kerala, a 5-member Left Democratic Front ministry headed by the CPI-M leader, Mr E.K. Nayanar, has assumed office. The governor, Mr P. Ramachandran, administered the oath of office and secrecy in Trivandrum this evening. The other ministers sworn in are Mr P.S. Srinivasan, CPI; Mr K. Chandrasekharan, Janata; Mr A.C. Shanmukhadas, Congress-S; and Mr Baby John, Revolutionary Socialist Party. [passage omitted on correspondent's analysis]

In the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Farooq Abadullah, was today elected leader of the National Conference-Congress-I alliance. A meeting of the newly elected legislators in Jammu chose Dr Abdullah unanimously. The meeting was

attended by the surface transport minister, Mr Rajesh Pilot, and the Congress-I general secretary, Mrs Najma Heftullah.

In the eastern state of West Bengal, the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, will again head the third Left Front government. The All India Radio correspondent reports that this unanimous decision was taken at a meeting of the constituent parties of the Left Front which met here this morning under the chairmanship of Saroj Mukherjee.

The prime minister has congratulated Mr Jyoti Basu for the massive victory of the Left Front. In a telephonic message, Mr Rajiv Gandhi praised Mr Basu for his able leadership and statesmanlike qualities.

Law Minister Resigns Following Election Losses

BK271556 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The law minister, Mr Ashoke Sen, has tendered his resignation from the union cabinet. Announcing this at a news conference in Calcutta this evening, Mr Sen said the debacle of the Congress-I in the West Bengal assembly elections and threats to and attacks on party workers have prompted him to take the decision.

He said his resignation letter has already been sent to the prime minister. Mr Sen urged the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, to take immediate steps to save the life and property of the congress workers.

On the party reverses in the elections, Mr Sen attributed them to lack of necessary preparations.

AFP Says Border Security Forces To Be Increased

BK261612 Hong Kong AFP in English 1553 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] New Delhi, March 26 (AFP) — India is to raise more than 54,000 extra Border Security Force (BSF) troops to patrol its frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh, an official report said Thursday. The Federal Home Ministry is to raise an additional 54 para-military BSF battalions in the next five years to guard borders with its western and eastern neighbours, the report said.

More than 28,000 border guards have been already deployed on Punjab's border with Pakistan. They were placed under military command after tensions between the two countries reached a peak in early February. The Federal Home Ministry is to deploy 25 battalions of the additional troops on the Pakistan border while the rest will combat insurgency and control infiltration on India's border with Bangladesh, the report said.

The authorities have also drawn up a blueprint to string along the two borders observation towers, outposts, and modern equipment for "effective surveillance," the report said.

India regularly accuses Pakistan of training Sikh militants who then cross the border to wreak havoc in Punjab.

Flag meetings between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles were held early this year to try to put an end to sporadic skirmishes. Firing is regularly reported from the Bangladesh border with India's north-eastern Tripura State whee thousands of tribal Bangladesh refugees had fled into India.

The BSF shot dead 300 people on its western border in 1986, and along both borders arrested 38,700 illegal trespassers and 4,400 smugglers the same year, according to official figures released Thursday.

Border Security Force Kills 7 Pakistani Intruders

BK280304 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] In Punjab, seven intruders were killed yesterday. A BSF patrol party shot them dead when they attempted to cross over to India from Pakistan in the Khem Karan sector. Three intruders managed to escape back into Pakistan. According to BSF sources, the group of 10 persons tried to enter India in the early hours and on being challenged, opened fire on security forces. The exchange of fire lasted for quite some time and nobody was injured on the BSF side.

With further improvement in the situation day curfew has been lifted in Patiala. Only night curfew will continue as a precautionary measure. Curfew was clamped in Patiala 10 days ago after violent incidents.

Federal Cabinet Expanded; Portfolios Reshuffled

BK291604 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] The Federal Cabinet has been expanded. Three new federal ministers and nine new ministers of state took the oath of office at the Presidency in Rawalpindi this evening. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq administered the oath of office.

The federal ministers are: Dr Mahbubul Haq, Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan, and Shah Mohammad Pashakhuro.

The ministers of state are: Raja Nadir Parvez Khan; Mian MohammadZaman; Rana Naim Mahmud Khan; Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan; Major General Mohammad Bashir Khan, retired; (Malik Sayyed Khan Mahfuz); Mrs Kulsum Saifullah Khan; Fateh Mohammad Hasani; and Abdus Sattar Lalika.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo was present on the occasion. Among those who were present at the oath taking ceremony were the federal ministers, members of parliament, and high officials.

After the appointment of new federal ministers and ministers of state, the Cabinet now has 15 federal ministers and 13 ministers of state. The federal ministers and their portfolios are:

Commerce and Planning and Development
Dr Mahbubul Haq
Communications and Railways
Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak
Culture and Tourism
Shah Mohammad Pashakhuro
Education, Health, Higher Education and Social Welfare
Malik Nasim Ahmed Ahir
Finance, Economic Afffairs, Petroleum, and Natural Resources
Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo
Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Labor, Manpower and Overseas Pakistani Affairs
Mohammad Ibrahim Baluch
Foreign Affairs
Sahabzada Yaqub Khan
Housing and Works
Haji Mohammad Hanif Taiyeb
Industries and Production
Chaudhary Shujaat Hussain
Information and Broadcasting, Water and Power
Qazi Abdul Majid Abid
Interior, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs
Wasim Jan Sajjad
Local Government and Rural Development
Anwar Aziz Chaudhary
Religious and Minorities Affairs
Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan
Frontier Regions and Kashmir Affairs
Syed Qasim Shah
Without portfolio
Iqbal Ahmad Khan

The ministers of state and their portfolios are:

Commerce
Mrs Kulsum Saifullah Khan
Communications
Fateh Mohammad Mohammad Hasani
Defense
Rana Naim Mahmud Khan
Foreign Affairs
Zain Noorani
Health
Sardar Ghulam Mohammad Khan Mahar
Industries
Mian Mohammad Zaman
Interior
Raja Nadir Parvez Khan
Labor, Manpower and Overseas Pakistani Affairs
Abdus Sattar Lalika
Petroleum and Natural Resources
Chaudhary Nisar Ali
Production
Major General Mohammad Bashir Khan, retired
Higher Education and Social Welfare
Mrs Afsar Raza Qizilbash
Water and Power
(Malik Sayyed Mahfuz).

Karachi Reports Top Military Appointments

BK291605 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] General Akhtar Abdur Rahman Khan and General Mirza Aslam Beg assumed the office of chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and vice chief of Army Staff respectively.

Protest Lodged With UN Over Afghan Bombings

BK270911 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, over the recent raids by the Kabul warplanes on Pakistan's border villages, killing and wounding scores of civilians. The Pakistan ambassador to the United Nations, Mr S. Shahnawaz, who called on the world body chief in New York, drew his attention to the most serious violations of Pakistan territory on the 23d of this month and on subsequent days. The Pakistan ambassador said the deliberate and premeditated attacks are aimed at spreading terror in the area. He called the bombing unprecedented and brutal and a blatant attempt to force Pakistan to give up its principled stand on the Afghanistan question and to accept the other side's terms for a settlement.

Mr S. Shahnawaz said that these incidents belied the Soviet-backed Kabul regime's stated desire for a political settlement of the Afghanistan question.

AFP Reports Afghan Reconnaissance Plane Downed

BK301130 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Islamabad, March 30 (AFP) — Pakistani fighters shot down an Afghan reconnaissance aircraft over the frontier region of Parachinar Monday, local officials said.

The Afghan plane crashed on the Afghan side of the border on a mountain called Kohe Safeid [name as received], added the officials, contacted by telephone from Islamabad. They said two U.S.-made Pakistani F-16 fighters had intercepted the Afghan aircraft at 11:45 a.m. local time (0645 GMT) over the village of Malli Khel, close to Parachinar.

More than 300 people have been killed in the past month by Afghan air raids over the Pakistan border, according to Pakistani officials and Afghan rebels. Kabul has denied carrying out the attacks.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Concludes Visit

Terms Talks 'Encouraging'

BK270908 Karachi Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistan and Sri Lanka have identified various areas for bilateral cooperation, incuding cooperation in social sectors. This was stated by the Sri Lanka prime minister, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, while talking to newsmen in Islamabad before his departure for Lahore. He said he has had very useful and encouraging talks with the president and the prime minister which would help increase mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Answering a question about the recent bombing by Kabul aircraft inside Pakistan territory, the Sri Lankan prime minister said one should not be discouraged by such incidents and face the situation courageously. He said countries of the region, like Pakistan and Sri Lanka, must develop their resources and stand on their own feet to meet any challenge. The Sri Lanka prime minister has now arrived in Lahore.

Departs Karachi 29 Mar

BK290716 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa has left Karachi at the end of his 5-day official visit to Pakistan. He was seen off at the airport by Sind Governor Ashraf Tabani and others. Before departure Premadasa lauded Pakistani efforts at protecting the holy places of the minority community and the followers of Buddhism. He said after returning to his country he will ask the Buddhist leaders to visit Pakaitan and to make an on the spot review of their holy places.

Envoy to India, Minister Discuss Troop Withdrawal

BK270249 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistani Ambassador to India Dr Humayun Khan met with Indian Defense Minister V.P. Singh in New Delhi yesterday. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and on the implementation of the agreement for the withdrawal of troops from the southern sector and expressed satisfaction at the process of the troop pullout. Dr Humayun Khan presented a book *Amal-I-Chughtai* about Iqbal [Pakistan poet] from President Ziaul Haq to V.P. Singh.

SRI LANKA

India Resumes Efforts To Solve Ethnic Problem

BK301128 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] The Indian Government has made a series of moves during the last 2 days in an effort to resume negotiations for the settlement of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, according to a news agency report received by LANKA PUWATH. The most significant of them was an hour-long meeting on Saturday between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. G. Ramachandran in Madras. The report states that the Indian prime minister discussed with the Tamil Nadu chief minister the Sri Lanka ethnic issue for about 1 hour at the Minabakam Airport, Madras, before leaving for New Delhi. Mr Gandhi was in Madras for inaugurating for the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and the 150th anniversary commemorative celebrations at Madras Christian College.

On Friday, Indian Minister of Home Affairs P. Chidambaram and Minister of State for External Affairs Natwar Singh held talks in Madras with Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran at which Food Minister S. S. Ramachandran was also present. Mr Singh and Mr Chidambaram were also reported to have met representatives of terrorist groups.

Mr Gandhi indicated this week that he is willing to go ahead with his efforts to work out a solution even if some of the Tamil groups did not respond to Indian moves and kept away from the talks, sources said.

Jayewardene Expected To Meet Gandhi

BK281020 Hong Kong AFP in English 1014 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Colombo, March 28 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's President Junius Jayewardene is expected to meet Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi within the next two months to draft a settlement of the Tamil separatist conflict, informed sources said. The expected accord will go ahead even if some of the Tamil armed separatist groups fail to respond to India's mediatory efforts which resumed mid-March after a suspension of over four months, the sources said.

The basis of the agreement is thought to be peace proposals worked out during 1986 discussions between Sri Lanka, India, and some Tamil groups which envisage elected provincial councils with substantial power to give greater autonomy to the Tamils, the sources told *Agence France-Presse*.

The agreement is also expected to include an Indian proposal put forward in December to detach the predominantly Sinhalese Ampara constituency from the racially mixed Eastern Province to effectively create a Tamil majority there, the sources said.

Current indications are that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the strongest of the separatist groups, is not ready to compromise on its demand for a Tamil homeland, sources said. "India's biggest problem will be to get the LTTE to agree to come to the talks," one source said.

Delhi Reports Fierce Fighting Erupts in Jaffna

BK291615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a fierce battle has erupted between security forces and the militants in northern Jaffna peninsula. At least 8 civilians were killed and 27 injured yesterday as Air Force planes and helicopters bombed and strafed wider areas in and around Jaffna town. The dead included people between the ages of 8 and 18. The bombing and strafing were accompanied by intense shelling from almost all the camps in the peninsula. The famous Navadapuram Murudan temple has been badly damaged due to the shelling.

Reports reaching Colombo today said the shelling, accompanied by aerial bombing and straffing, continued today also while the entire peninsula plunged into darkness due to power failure for unknown reasons. A government spokesman, however, categorically denied these incidents. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that a large number of people have fled the areas around Jaffna town in panic. People have also fled from Thelipillai and Kattuwan areas.

AFP Reports Further

BK291634 Hong Kong AFP in English 1610 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Madras, India, March 29 (AFP) — Sri Lanka troops have killed 24 Tamil civilians and a separatist fighter in the north and east of the country, a spokesman for a Tamil militant group said here Sunday.

Eight members of a single family died when government helicopters and planes bombed civilian areas in the northern city of Jaffna Saturday, S. Subramaniam, a member of the Political Committee of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) told reporters in Madras.Mr Subramaniam said Army helicopters also strafed Kothadi, Mandaitivu, and Nallur areas in Jaffna, injuring more than 35 people. The attack came after eight troops were allegedly captured by LTTE guerrillas, Mr Subramaniam said.

Nearly 100 soldiers went on the rampage in eastern Trincomalee District, killing three people on suspicion of harbouring militant separatists, he said. Ten Tamil youths rounded up at Kumpurupiddi were later found dead in a jungle, added Mr Subramaniam.

Troops killed three farmers on their way to the fields in Mannar in the northwest Saturday, he added. He said that government troops had also killed a Tamil militant Sunday.

Khomeyni Issues Address on Prophet's Anniversary
LD281529 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Mar 87

[16-minute address by Ayatollah Khomeyni to physicians and medical workers on the occasion of the Islamic feast of the anniversary of the appointment of the Prophet Muhammad, at Jamaran residence in Tehran on 28 March — recorded]

[Text] On the auspicious anniversary of Bi'that [the day God appointed Muhammad as prophet] of the honored Prophet of Islam, the Holy Muhammad al-Mustafa — may God's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion — the following metwith Imam Khomeyni at Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran:

the minister of health, treatment, and medical training; deputies and officials of that ministry together with a group of physicians, supervisors, and lecturers of medical science universities throughout the country; heads of the country's medical colleges; brother paramedics of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Revolution of Iran; brother relief workers of the Red Crescent Society and those of the medical corps of the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution; the State Medical Disciplinary Organization; the Committee for Health and Treatment; the war support headquarters of the Reconstruction Jihad and also a group from the medical center of the Martyr's Foundation of the Islamic Revolution and the managing-directors of regional health organizations in the provinces; a group from the headquarters for looking after the injured and wounded of the imposed war; members of the Health and Welfare Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly; a party of the families of martyrs of the Medical Association; a group of brothers of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' Martyr Motahhari base; families of the martyrs of the Vali-ye 'Asr 7th Army Division; a group of Iranian and non-Iranian seminarians of Qom seminary; a large group of Hezbollah people; and a number of combatants of Islam. Due to the large crowd, those attending met with Khomeyni in two groups.

On the basis of this report, in the meeting between the medical officials and the imam of the nation, Minister of Health, Treatment, and Medical Treatment Mr Marandi first delivered a detailed report on the activities and relentless efforts of physicians and officials in charge of health and welfare as well as the activities of the rest of the officials and relevant bodies concerned with providing relief and health care for the people. He informed the imam about the voluntary presence of these officials on the battlefronts of war and their offerings of martyrs, POW's, the missing-in-action, and the maimed to the altar of the revolution.

Then the imam of the nation delivered some important remarks to which we draw your attention.

[Begin Khomeyni recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I congratulate all the world's Muslims and the world's meek on the occasion of this happy feast, which, it must be said, is the greatest of Islamic feasts. The Bi'that event is not something we can say anything about; all we know is that the Bi'that brought about some monumental changes, and some things gradually emerged in the world that did not exist before this event. Through the knowledge that spread throughout the world through the grace of the Bi'that of the most noble Prophet, and those who know what these events are, and to the extent that we can understand, we see that these things are beyond the reach of human comprehension. It is a miracle beyond human comprehension. It is about a human being who was born in the Age of Ignorance [period before the advent of Islam in Arabia], who was raised in the Age of Ignorance.

He was a person who grew up in an environment in which there was no mention whatsoever of these matters. The environment of the times was not at all aware of the problems and issues of the world, and was not aware and familiar with things esoteric and the world of philosophy and other such things. Throughout all his life, the Holy Prophet was there in that environment. He only took a short trip that lasted for a few days, and then returned. Then, when Bi'that was granted, one can see that certain things happened that are beyond human understanding.

This is a miracle that is proof of Prophethood and of its evidence for the community of believers. He is a Prophet and he could not have done this on his own. He had no education, nor could he read or write. These are issues that are too great and we cannot really talk about them. These have not yet even been grasped or appreciated except by the Prophet himself and those special persons close to him.

There are social matters in Islam. There are all sorts of matters, as you well know; some are of the highest categories which, if an individual living in that particular environment, or in any environment, were able to bring such things to the world that were consistent with current and future wisdom — could only be miracles, nothing more than miracles.

More important than the Bi'that event and its blessings was the fact that what the Prophet was aspiring to has not materialized and will not materialize in the future. What he was seeking, that is, what he wanted people to turn into, did not happen during his own time or afterward. Now, some Court Akhunds [lay clergy] are going to say that so-and-so has said that the Prophet was not able to achieve these things. Yes, I do say that he was not able to achieve this things. If he had, then Court Akhunds would not exist now!

We all know that during the time of the Prophet the circumstances were such that even he had to conceal [taqiyyeh — practice in Shi'ism allowing believers to conceal their true beliefs under undesirable circumstances] the decrees he wanted to convey; he had to be cautious about things he wanted to communicate. The Prophet did not succeed in achieving what he was striving to achieve. He did preach; he said everything. There was no shortcoming in terms of communicating the idea. But making people understand and comprehend was something different. That is why you see this problem existed then, as it does today, and will continue to be so. When the Hidden Imam comes, a rule will be established, the power of government will be established, and there will be social justice throughout the world. But that does not mean that people will be transformed. The people will continue to remain as they are: Some of them will be good and some of them will not. But those who are there can no longer [words indistinct].

At any rate, the matter of Bi'that is not something we can discuss now. I must thank you gentlemen who are present as well as those who are not, and all strata of the nation, for being an exemplary nation. I hope this exemplary nation will bring about more changes in Iran and the world. I must also thank some physicians and tell them that Almighty God grants those endeavoring along His path a high status; those striving on the path of God have status.

One of these levels is that the Almighty wants to attend to those who are afflicted, especially in these times and circumstances, when your work is, in all fairness, a struggle along the path of God. However, you must make certain that this is really a struggle for the sake of God. When the struggle is for Him, then it will become permanent. Things that are for God remain; they become permanent. Things that pertain to the material world are ephemeral and do not remain [words indistinct] and everything related to them disappears. You physicians are among the strugglers along the path of God, and you must be careful that your intentions remain divine ones and not of this material world. If you are moved by divine intentions, then material intentions will also follow, but these material intentions that follow will have turned into divine intentions. If you are moved by material intentions, then whatever you do for God will not work out. This is why all strata of people, the government, the Majlis — everyone — should turn their intentions into divine ones, so that all issues are concerned with the divine. Only then will we find the way to attain a fraction of what the prophets were striving for.

You and I should stop being surprised that evolution has been seen everywhere except inside the palaces of powerful people. The world has changed, while these people think that it is the same world of 100 or 150 years ago. They have not yet realized — or perhaps they pretend to be ignorant of the fact — that the whole world has changed. It has become completely [yekja] different; Europe has changed. All of Asia has changed; and everybody has become different. All have become different except these leaders, who either have not changed or only pretend to have changed, so to speak.

These people think, for example, that Iran is now as it used to be in Qajar or Pahlavi times, [former dynasties of Iran in the present century] when an ambassador of theirs could do anything without a word said against him, when an ambassador from this or that place could appear when something was in the offing, and matters used to come to an end. These people cannot understand that there is no such thing, that the world is not so. The world is not such that you can sit there and say things, and expect matters to follow accordingly. At most, you can barely hold on to your own hats. You should not go taking people's hats off [Persian saying, meaning to be bold and mischievous].

If you have not been able to understand what is happening in the world until today, then one must say that you rank among the top idiots. [audience laughs] If you do understand, and think that the people do not, this itself is a big mistake. To presume that people today are like people of 50 or 100 years ago is a mistake.

No! It is not so! Change has taken place and evolution has set in. The world is different and revolution has come about in this world. You bury your heads in the sand and utter the same old line that if such-and-such occurs in the Persian Gulf or in the Strait of Hormuz, we will do this and that! You still think that today, as in the past, you can say one word about the Persian Gulf and other places and everything comes to a standstill. Today, it is not so. You may come to the Gulf and see for yourselves what is happening there. Anyhow, one day they say they will do this and that; the next, they go back on their words or deny having said so. [audience laughs]

There are problems in the White House, so much so, that one says there will be military intervention, and another says that there has been no such talk. They are confused and do not know what they are doing. They still do not know people and the world. The world has gone through changes, and so you should change yourselves. You should change your views. It is not possible today to disrupt matters by dictatorial or propaganda means, as was the case in the past. You cannot expect that you can say a word, and everyone will obey. They will not do so.

People nowadays are not so inclined. You too, should change yourselves and be with people. You should not think that everybody must sit silent and tongue-tied at your presence. Today, our Iran is such a place that, for example, should an American President arrive, ordinary people here would not bother to even look at him. It is no longer possible to presume that certain events will take place if somebody arrives here, or this or that happens. These matters are no longer valid. People have changed and are different now. They pay no attention to such matters. Not only us, but the Africans and people from other places pay no attention. It is only you, a few people, who have facilities [masayel] at hand and hold some levers of power, that think that just by saying you will put something into effect [emal] without actually doing so, will bring matters to completion. Matters do not come to completion by doing the same or even by putting matters into effect. The Soviets learned this in Afghanistan. The rulers are on the side of the Soviets, and communism exists there. However, in spite of all that, groups of Muslims and those who are with Islam can make life there so difficult for the Soviets that they do not know how to leave the troubled spot. It is so in Iran, where the government and the nation are together except for a few who follow [taba] the United States and do not understand what they themselves are saying. There are a few people who are contrary, and we believe that they should come and join the people in the realization that the present times are not like the past when the United States could do whatever it wanted to and when you had to be afraid of the United States.

I wish that God will grant success to all oppressed nations of the world to confront the oppressors and to have no fears and no doubts that what is said can be put into action. No! They want to get results by using propaganda. Do not be fearful of such propaganda. Witness that Iran has stood steadfast without any fears, and witness that Afghan Muslims are standing firm and have put despondency into them [Soviets] despite their mobbing it. In Lebanon, more than others, they have done so much. The world has changed. You, the Muslims and the oppressed, pay attention and know that you must hold your own and confront the superpowers. I hope to God that He may grant them success on such a beneficient day and may allow our independent country

to more independence. Salutations to the Almighty and His Beneficience. [cheers] [end recording]

Montazeri Views Islamic Rulers, Need for Unity

LD291347 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Excerpts] On the auspicious anniversary [28 March] of the mission of the savior of mankind, Prophet of Islam, holy Muhammad ibn-'Abdallah — peace be upon him and his scion — a group of Islamic Revolution Guards, defense forces, mobilization brothers, selfless personnel of the fronts from various divisions and brigades, relief worker sisters from bombed regions of Azarbayjan, employees of the National Gas Company, esteemed families of martyrs, and a group of teachers were received by leader-designate Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom. [passage omitted]

The leader-designate commented: Exalted God has blessed His worshippers with many pleasures. [passage omitted] Three things may destroy man and three things may save him. Those that destroy are selfish desires that cannot be controlled by the virtues of logic and piety and instead are pursued as if by animals. Another form of destruction is avarice, which may divert man from good deeds. For example, a man who is wealthy and of means and who can provide for marriage and a home for young people refuses to do so out of greed. The third form of destruction is self-conceit and lack of respect for others.

Until the individual who has responsibility holds a position or enjoys status, this is not a sin. However, once a position or a post is given to such a person in a company or in a city then status is acquired and power is given. Thus, this person may assume that to acquire a position adds to his intellect and knowledge and he may try to spread threatening words and clandestine letters or publish unfounded reports to undermine the dignity and respect of people and even to possess their property. Such people may even try to expose the shortcomings of others if a dispute occurs at their places of work.

We must take comfort in God, seek advice from others, and listen to views so that we may be preserved against pitfalls and mistakes and may avoid causing discord and ill-feeling. Now more than ever we need unity and harmony. We must seek refuge in God and try to avoid self-interest and self-conceit, which cause man to err and fall into destruction, so that we may not be sinners in this world and the next, while knowing that God on high will hold us responsible.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri added: It is truly pitiful that some people are ruling in Islamic countries under the titles of shah or shaykh and are bringing much trouble to their own people. Once this Persian Gulf belonged to Britain and the superpowers, but now that there is an opportunity to breathe freely and to be saved from colonialism thanks to the blessings of Islam and the revolution, they are trying to involve the United States in the region. They are trying to introduce colonialism so that they may deal blows to the revolution, so that they may not bow to Islam. They want Reagan but not Islam to be here. Despite the clear decrees of the Koran they have chosen Jews and Christians as their masters without realizing that they do not want us but rather would have Israel.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: But what saves man is observation of justice without fear or favor, moderation in poverty or wealth, and fear of God inwardly and outwardly. Man must be mindful of God in mosques. And in the same vein, when he is in office and dealing with people man must remember God by not delaying to serve people and by not causing their displeasure.

In conclusion Grand Ayatollah Montazeri prayed for the health and longevity of the leader of the revolution, victory for the Islamic combatants at the fronts in Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan, and other places, and the annihilation of Saddam, Israel, and the plundering powers.

Majlis Speaker Outlines Combatants' Victories

LD290057 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Saturday lauded the Iranian Armed Forces for their spirit of self-sacrifice and for their role in recent victories over Iraqi troops at the war fronts.

Speaking in a ceremony held in honour of martyrs of the Army, Gendarmerie, and police forces here, the speaker described the U.S.'s retraction of its threats against the Islamic Republic as a "great victory" for the Iranian nation. Because, he said, in the past, big powers did not take Iran serious.

"We have achieved great victories in the Iraqi-imposed war. You witness how weak the big powers now feel before the Islamic Revolution," he said.

Rafsanjani who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) then outlined victories gained by Iranian Muslim combatants on the battlefields last year.

The unprecedented and victorious Iranian military operations such as "Karbala'-5", 6, and 7 have served to put the Iraqi regime in a position that it no longer speaks about recapturing its land and is glad that it has not been forced to retreat further. The speaker said. "This is a great triumph for us," he added.

"Our enemy is in such a miserable position that it celebrates its survival for a few more days", a clear referrence to a celebration held in Iraq one day after the new Iranian year on March 22 in which Saddam Husayn said that he had been glad to be alive.

The imam's SDC representative said "such a celebration means that Saddam (Husayn) has accepted that his days are numbered and he is happy to have survived for a few more days."

The Majlis speaker also conferred medals of honor on relatives of martyrs of the Army, Gendarmerie, and police forces.

Present in the ceremony were the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Colonel Esmael Sohrabi, commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Navy, Gendarmerie, police, air and ground forces, some Majlis deputies and relatives of martyrs.

Tunisian Severance of Ties 'Blessing in Disguise'

LD291459 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 29 Mar 87

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Today's newspapers carry an article entitled: "Challenging Islam Does Not Serve the Interests of the Tunisian Regime." The article reads:

A powerful movement in favor of Islam is gaining support in Tunisia, while every Tunisian Muslim, facing factual developments in his society, realizes that he must oppose and fight in accordance with religious law the current of anti-Islamic movement in his land. Although the Tunisian regime, in trying to crush this colossal popular movement, is aiming to present it as a foreign movement, thus preparing the ground to smash this powerful wave, the panic and apprehension felt by the Bourguiba regime show that the regime is already anxious about the consequences of its action.

In a statement, the Tunisian Foreign Ministry considers the Islamic Republic to have been involved in promoting Islam in that Islamic country, and after announcing the severance of diplomatic ties it has tried to attribute this mighty and popular pro-Islamic movement to external sources.

The fact is that following the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran the mighty waves of a global movement, aimed at reviving the lost greatness of Muslims, have extended throughout the Islamic world. The movement has already developed beyond its seminal stage. This is a phenomenon that even global arrogance admits. However, another undeniable fact exists in this context. The fact is that the Islamic Revolution has never been exported via diplomatic channels. This is a thought, a culture, that is conveyed via suitable channels — the channels that happen to be outside the control and supervision of governments — by word of mouth. Once we realize this fact, then we come to the conclusion that closure of diplomatic channels will change nothing and can present no obstacle to the growth and flowering of the Islamic movement throughout the Islamic world.

Although the decision by the Tunisian regime to sever its diplomatic ties with the Islamic Republic might, on a short-term basis, restore peace in the agitating hearts of Tunisian authorities, they will soon realize what a grave mistake they have made. They will soon realize what a hasty decision they have made under overt and covert pressures from global arrogance.

There is no doubt that the decision by the Tunisian regime will not bring the wave of the pro-Islamic movement in that Islamic land under control. Rather, the Muslim people of Tunisia, more alert than ever, will pursue their course of action. In the meantime it is noteworthy that the hasty decision by the Tunisian regime could prove to be a blessing in disguise, for it will serve to increase the appetite of the Tunisian Muslim people for Islam and make them more receptive and eager for Islamic thought and Islam.

By resorting to this hasty decision the Bourguiba regime, in fact, has proved its weakness. It has proved its fear of the Islamic movement in Tunisia. As a result, this very fear and agitation led the Bourguiba regime to adopt an apprehensive stance.

There is also another aspect to the decision: the fact that the Tunisian regime is bracing itself to challenge Islam in that country. It began its challenge by accusing the supporters of Islamic greatness in Tunisia of having foreign links thus hoping to crush the pro-Islamic movement.

There is little doubt as to whether the Bourguiba regime pursues this objective, or whether it is the arrogant powers that have designated the Tunisian regime to perform this mission. However, wisdom and logic require the Tunisian president for life to act far-sightedly and to bear in mind very carefully the fate of Numayri.

Opposing Islam and challenging a nation demanding adherence to Islamic precepts will not serve the interest of any leader of the Islamic countries. The events in Sudan and the fall of Numayri should serve as a lesson to them. As for the Tunisian leaders, they can rest assured that Bourguiba and his advisers can expect nothing better than what happened to Numayri. If the Tunisian regime intends to approach issues rationally then it must never declare war against Islam or challenge Muslims.

Navy To Confront 'Mischievous Movement' in Gulf

LD300907 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA — Navy Commander Captain Hussein Malekzadegan said here Monday that Iran's Navy vessels will powerfully confront any mischievous movement by enemies of the Islamic Revolution in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Speaking at a naval flag hoisting ceremony, Captain Malekzadegan also stressed that Iran's naval forces were prepared to confront threats of "international arrogance".

The Navy commander's warning came following recent U.S. threats to militarily intervene in the Persian Gulf in a bid to "open the waterway to shipping". The U.S. concern was voiced after it learned that Iran has deployed anti-ship missiles in the Strait of Hormuz.

Referring to the activities of the naval forces during the past Iranian year (ended March 21), he said they achieved remarkable victories including destruction of the Iraqi Al-Ummaya jetty in September.

The Navy commander said that over the last year naval forces had intercepted over 1,000 cargo ships and oil tankers, confiscating a large amount of equipment and munitions which could strengthen Iraq's military capability.

Referring to the constant presence of Iranian warships in regional waters he stressed that safeguarding security of the regional waters was one of the prime responsibilities of Iran's naval forces last year.

Captain Malekzadegan said the two great naval maneuvers conducted last year were outstandingly successful. He furthermore expressed hope that Navy forces will achieve greater victories in the current year.

French 'Poisonous Propaganda' Protested

LD281628 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Paris, March 28, IRNA — First Secretary of the Iranian Embassy here Vahid Gorji protested allegations of the French media against the Islamic Republic, in a meeting with head of the Middle East Department of French Foreign Ministry Mr Sibieud here Friday. Gorji, who met the French official in the absence of Iranian charge d'affaires Gholam Reza Haddadi, currently in Tehran, cautioned the Paris government of the consequences of such propaganda.

Mr Sibieud in reply stressed that reports published in the press were not views of the French government and promised to clarify position of his government concerning recent propaganda tirade against the Islamic Republic at the earliest time. Following the arrest last Saturday of six Tunisian and two French nationals on charges of involvement in a terrorist network in Paris, French mass media launched poisonous propaganda against the Islamic Republic, although judicial investigations about the said persons only started on Thursday.

Concerning previous mistakes of the French counter-espionage agents in similar cases which bore dire consequences for the Paris government, political observers rule out the authenticity of the charges attributed to the detainees, while French media gives importance to the issue as detection of a terrorist network.

Iraqi Claims of Basra Shelling 'Baseless'

LD291325 Tehran IRNA in English 1322 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA — Iran categorically denied Sunday the claim repeated by the Baghdad regime during the past few days that it had shelled the southern Iraqi port city of Basra.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) described the Iraqi allegation as "completely baseless," adding that no single shell has been fired on Basra, although Muslim forces of Iran have continued their battle with Iraqi troops east of the city. The WIH spokesman also warned the Iraqi regime against committing any acts of mischief.

AFP Reports Oil Tanker Hit Persian Gulf

NC280949 Paris AFP in English 0934 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Manama, March 28 (AFP) — Four crewmen were killed and six were missing after a loaded oil tanker registered in Singapore, *The Sedra*, was hit by a missile in the southern Gulf early Saturday, independent shipping sources said here. The missile started a fire, but it was quickly brought under control, Lloyd's Insurers said in London.

The 998-metric ton tanker was hit around 4:00 a.m. (0100 GMT) as it was sailing northeast of the United Arab Emirates capital of Dubayy, in an area where missile attacks are usually attributed to Iran. *The Sedra* was apparently out of reach of Chinese-made Iranian missile batteries recently installed in the Strait of Hormuz.

The loss of life was one of the heaviest in an attack on an oil tanker in the Gulf since Iran and Iraq resumed attacks on civilian shipping in 1984, and follows three Iraqi attacks on Iranian or Iranian-leased tankers since the start of the month. Last October, an Iranian attack on the Panama-registered tanker, *The Five Brooks*, left five crewmen dead and 10 missing.

According to Lloyd's, 88 crewmen were killed in attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf in 1986.

Communique No 2,789 Reports 2 Ships Intercepted

LD281451 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA — Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected two cargo ships sailing under foreign flags in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no suspicious cargo on board.

Announcing the above, the 2789th communique of the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said today that Iranian Muslim combatants continued reconnoitering and shelling Iraqi positions throughout the fronts Friday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Some Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and two enemy munitions dumps set ablaze in Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts in artillery duels with Muslim forces of Iran on Friday. Parts of enemy positions were also destroyed and enemy fire silenced.

In the northwestern fronts Friday, exchange of artillery fire continued and Iranian Muslim combatants successfully carried out 19 intelligence-gathering missions before returning safely to bases.

Iranian forces also suppressed Iraqi reinforcement operations in 'Eyn Khvosh, southern fronts, Friday, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers. In Mehran, western fronts, enemy engineering operations were disrupted by Iranian artillery fire.

Exchange of artillery fire between Iranian combatants and Iraqi troops continued in the southern fronts especially in Majnun Islands Friday with the former keeping the upper hand.

Muslim forces of Iran suppressed a convoy of Iraqi patrols, disrupted enemy engineering operations, and checked reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters in Nahr-e 'Anbar, southern fronts, Friday, the communique concluded.

No 2,790 Reports Iraqi Plane Downed
LD291553 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane was shot down by the Air Force anti-aircraft fire over the southern naval region at 09:35 hours local time (06:05 GMT) Sunday, according to the Joint Staff Communique No 2,790.

The communique, released here Sunday, added that Iranian naval forces intercepted six foreign cargo ships and oil tankers in the Hormuz Strait Sunday, but allowed them to set sail since no suspicious cargo turned up on board.

Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions and strongholds in northwestern fronts Saturday and Sunday destroyed two military vehicles and several individual and group bunkers, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers.

In the western fronts, artillery and mortar fire of the Muslim combatants demolished an Iraqi vehicle, a munitions dump, and several gun emplacements, inflicting some casualties on the enemy.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in southern fronts being more intense in Bejliyeh, Sharhani, Bubiyan, and Zeydi operational regions. Three Iraqi tanks, a heavy engineering vehicle, several dug-outs and group bunkers and watch posts were destroyed in the region where more than 20 enemy troops were also killed or wounded.

Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic disrupted Iraqi engineering activities in parts of western and southern fronts Saturday, destroying two Iraqi vehicles, three watch posts, and at least 10 bunkers. A number of Iraqi soldiers were also killed or wounded in these regions, said the communique.